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HOUSE MEMORIAL 67

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47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

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INTRODUCED BY

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John A. Heaton

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A MEMORIAL

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REQUESTING THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO EXPLORE THE

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POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A MEDICAID WAIVER FOR NURSING HOME

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SERVICES.

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WHEREAS, the population of New Mexicans over the age of

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sixty-five is growing and will almost double by the year 2020;

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and

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WHEREAS, due to medical advances, people are living

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longer, but not necessarily healthier, lives; and

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WHEREAS, the annual cost of nursing home care for a

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medicaid beneficiary is nearly twenty-six thousand dollars

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(\$26,000); and

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WHEREAS, the medicaid program in New Mexico covers the

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cost of providing nursing home care to eligible individuals in

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need of that level of care; and

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WHEREAS, the medicaid program currently covers more than
seven thousand persons who reside in nursing facilities; and

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WHEREAS, the monthly private cost of nursing home care in
New Mexico is estimated to be in excess of three thousand
dollars (\$3,000) per month; and

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WHEREAS, the private cost of nursing home care is
unaffordable for most people and many become impoverished
paying for nursing home care privately; and

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WHEREAS, when private sources of funding are exhausted,
many nursing home residents qualify for medicaid coverage, and
their care then becomes the responsibility of the state; and

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WHEREAS, the human services department has not re-based
the reimbursement rate for nursing home care to keep pace with
the rising cost of care, and the cost to private paying nursing
home residents has been raised to compensate for this
inadequate medical reimbursement; and

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WHEREAS, an estimated seventy-eight percent of nursing
home beds in New Mexico are occupied by medicaid-eligible
persons; and

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WHEREAS, more than seven percent of the entire medicaid
budget is spent in caring for persons residing in nursing
homes; and

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WHEREAS, nursing homes are an essential part of the
continuum of care for aged and disabled persons; and

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WHEREAS, an environment in which people can receive the

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level of care needed in the most appropriate setting includes
care provided in nursing homes; and

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WHEREAS, the rising cost of nursing home care can
reasonably be assumed to present an ongoing challenge to the
nursing home industry, the state and individuals in need of
such care;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the human
services department be requested to explore the potential for
development of a medicaid waiver for nursing home services; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the impact on private paying
residents of inadequate reimbursement to nursing homes for
medicaid residents be addressed through the waiver; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the waiver seek to minimize
the impact of the daily bed surcharge imposed on private paying
residents; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department
address reimbursement for nursing facilities, affordable levels
of care for individuals and appropriate cost-reimbursement
measures for the medicaid program; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department
report its findings and recommendations to the interim
legislative health and human services committee at its October

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be

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transmitted to the secretary of human services.

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